

(OLD) CITY HALL FOR SALE



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NO. 15

Fired Building Inspectors Receive \$15,000 from City

2-YEAR HASSLE AT END

A long two-year legal hassle over the firing of two city building inspectors was wrapped up Tuesday night when the city agreed to pay a total of \$15,000.

The city agreed to the settlement following a court's decision that the city should not have overruled the Civil Service Commission and fired James Dresser, building inspector, and his assistant, Cecil Smith, who has since died.

John McCall, attorney for the two men, informed the council that a settlement of \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively, would be acceptable.

While the Civil Service Commission found both men negligent in their work on a number of counts, the commission only recommended temporary suspension and loss of pay.

Fire Inspectors
The council, however, over-

\$105,000 Hit-Run Suit Filed

A \$105,000 suit has been filed against a Torrance man who has been charged with misdemeanor hit-and-run driving.

The suit, filed by Attorney Boris Woolley on behalf of Emma M. Sanderson, 77, of 459 Torrance boulevard, has been brought against Frank Ackerman, 79, of 1724 Martina.

Mrs. Sanderson was struck in the crosswalk at Beech and Torrance boulevards, around 8:30 p.m. July 16, suffering bodily injuries, broken bones, and head injuries.

A total of \$100,000 is for general damages and \$5,000 for medical bills.
The district attorney's office (Turn to Page 11)

Lomita Incorporation Talk Creates Factions

Incorporation talk in Lomita and Rolling Hills has precipitated a whole series of chain reactions, the latest of which is an attempt by some Lomita forces to incorporate independently of Rolling Hills.

At the same time, other Lomita forces have organized in an attempt to halt the incorporation move altogether.

Youth Found Guilty In Robbery-Murder

Robert Williams, 18, was found guilty of first degree murder in the January 23 slaying of wealthy Harbor City motel operator Matt Manestar, 54.

The verdict was handed down by a Superior Court jury late Monday afternoon.

The nine-woman, three-man panel deliberated nine hours and recommended mercy. This makes a life sentence automatic.

Williams will be sentenced Friday by Judge Beach Vasey. The defendant showed no emotion as the verdict was read. As deputies led him from the courtroom, however, he up-ended his chair and threw it to the floor. He snarled at the two deputies and resisted slightly when one grabbed him by the arm.

The trial centered around several confessions he made, then later retracted. Harbor Div. officers, who spent long hours checking out false information he gave about purported accomplices and location of the death gun, testified his statements contained information only a participant could know.

Williams' defense was based on the contention that he was a pathological liar, innocent of the crime but anxious to confess to hurt his family, impress his friends and ridicule authorities.

Williams was charged with kidnaping Manestar from the motel, robbing him of \$43, shooting him twice and throwing his body over a Pt. Fermin cliff. The body was found on a ledge two days later.

His accomplice, if he had one, has not been found. Williams, a transient, went on trial July 16. He was represented by Atty. Harold Drooz. Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton was prosecutor.

13-Year-Old Boy Finalist In Press Photo Contest

Thirteen-year-old David Woodward of 1003 Portola emerged as this week's photo contest finalist in the amateur division with his photo of Susie the porpoise jumping through a hoop, taken at Marineland.

In the semi-professional division, R. Deurloo of 24424 Park st., WALTERIA, took the honors for his impressively serene early morning scene, "Surf Fishing."

Woodward used a Brownie holiday camera while Deurloo used a 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 Graflex, 1/100 sec., F8, A filter, royal pan film.

Three More Weeks
The contest will last three more weeks. Amateur photographers (which means anyone who likes to snap pictures) as well as the more advanced shutterbugs (semi-professionals) are encouraged to enter the contest in order to win one of the attractive prizes being offered.

There are two divisions this year, one for amateurs, the other for semi-professionals.

All individuals, who submit photographs which are smaller than 8x10 will be classified as (Turn to Page 8)

CONSCIENCE MONEY

Ex-GI Pays Off Debt--\$1 for 1 Salt Shaker
An anonymous ex-GI with an exacting conscience paid off a debt this week to the owner of a local restaurant for a "souvenir" salt shaker he had taken 12 years ago.

The ex-soldier sent the letter to the City Council asking them to locate the owner of the restaurant. He hoped that the enclosed \$1 bill would settle the score.

"Enclosed please find one dollar (\$1) and if it is possible, here is what I'd like to be done with it," he wrote. "Along about 1944 there was a small restaurant that went by the name of the 'Busy Bee' next to a small theater. One night, two other boys and myself were in there and one suggested we take a souvenir. So one got the ash tray, one the pepper and I the salt shaker. I'd appreciate it very much if you could find the owner and repay him for my part in this. By the way, we were Army boys out at Torrance hospital at the time."

"Thank you very much and I hope this will take care of things." (signed) A one time G. I.

The letter was postmarked Marion, Illinois.

Upon hearing of the letter, the mayor, recognizing virtue when he saw it, asked License Inspector Dale Whitacre, to locate the owner of the restaurant which is no longer operating.

Whitacre, a former detective, got his man, Virgil Rogers, now living in Long Beach and working for the Yellow Cab company.

Rogers was asked to appear at the council meeting Tuesday night at which time Mayor Albert Isen presented him with the buck.

"This is the funniest thing I've ever heard of," Rogers commented to reporters afterwards. "I lost about 10-15 of those things a night... but this is the first man who ever repaid me for it."

Rogers was actually a bit reluctant to come and pick up his dollar. He told Whitacre just to keep it and buy himself some coffee and cigarettes.

"The salt shaker just cost me 27 cents," he said. However he had to spend about 75 cents in calls from Long Beach to Torrance and he was losing about \$25 in staying away from work in order to pick up the dollar Tuesday night.

However, it wasn't the money, it was the principle, that mattered.

Electricity Rates Hit By Council

The City Council voted to hire some high-powered help in trying to obtain lower electric power rates for Torrance residents.

The council agreed to pay \$100 to a firm specializing in gas and electrical rates to appear before the State Public Utilities Commission and ask for rezoning the electrical rates for this area.

The present rate is based on a population figure which is half of what Torrance's population is today, according to City Manager George Stevens.

A rate rezoning two years ago resulted in lower-cost power, Stevens said.



MIXING ART AND POLITICS
Mayor Albert Isen holds one of the 50 original oil paintings presented to the city of Torrance by Kauffman-Wilson construction co. for the city's new civic center. Making the presentation is Don Wilson (l).

City Given \$10,000 Oil Paintings

Torrance's city councilmen turned from politics to culture Tuesday night, full of admiration for a number of paintings which had been set up in the council chamber.

Reason for their sudden aesthetic turn of mind was simple—they were about to be presented with \$10,000 worth of original oil paintings for the new city hall and police station at Torrance boulevard and Madrona.

Presenting the city with 50 paintings were Don Wilson and Milton Kauffman, of Kauffman-Wilson Construction company, who have built thousands of homes in Torrance within the last few years.

All the paintings are originals, signed and framed.

The council even listened with obvious delight to a few explanatory remarks governing the background of the artists and the nature of the paintings.

Although none of the paintings looked even faintly "controversial," the council was given reassurance that these paintings and painters are here (Turn to Page 8)

Household help is no problem when you place a "Help Wanted" ad before 90,000 readers who use Press Classified ads as their daily guide to better bargains and services.

This inexpensive ad solved Mrs. Patrick's problem:
WANT—responsible woman to take care of 2 1/2-year-old boy. 8 hrs. daily. FA. 8-2844 623 Sartori

Press classified ads are the quick, easy way to get your message to the people who count. Just call FA 8-2345.

Little Boy Finds New Babysitter

Mrs. Louis Patrick, of 623 Sartori ave. needed someone to care for her little boy while she worked. Most important, she wanted a responsible person.

A quick-action Torrance Press classified ad brought a tremendous response and she found it easy to select just the right person.

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JIM DANDY MARKET OPENS IN LOMITA

Jim Dandy's newest supermarket will be opened in Lomita today. It is located at 24911 S. Western avenue on the corner of Western avenue and Lomita boulevard in Lomita.

The new Jim Dandy market is 22,000 square feet in area, of which 15,000 square feet is designated to the selling area of the market. The market is equipped with two sets of the ultra-modern automatic doors which operate merely by the customers entry into the market. The doors are not touched by the persons entering, it simply works mechanically and opens automatically for easy entry or exit to and from the market.

The fastest, most efficient check-out service is assured as Jim Dandy customers through the use of eight of the most modern and newest Speedee

mechanical check stands. The new, huge Jim Dandy auto park will easily accommodate 150 cars.

Modern Meat Department
The meat department will be modern in every respect. The cutting room will be refrigerated and the meat will be conveyed to the wrapping stations under refrigeration, and will then be wrapped and kept under refrigeration until its final display in the selling case.

The modern self-service meat cases are 73 feet long, with the newest, up-to-date equipment being used in the cases. Jim Dandy markets handle Grade (Turn to Page 11)

New Series On Education Starts Today

The first of a series of articles on public education which will appear in the Torrance Press gets underway today with some provocative insights into the problems facing the Torrance schools. It appears on page 18.

Myron Roberts, author of the series, formerly taught journalism at Torrance high school (Turn to Page 11)

Classifi-Ads Are Better Than Ever

There's something new in classified this week.

As a convenience to our readers and our advertisers, The Torrance Press has enlarged the number of classifications to make it easier to find a particular item.

The new classifications will enable classified readers to find what they want faster. The bargain-packed columns of Press Classifieds are better than ever.

Chamber Wants City's Money Without Strings

The majority of the Torrance City Council and members of the Chamber of Commerce still do not seem to see eye to eye Tuesday night regarding \$14,000.

The council indicated that it would grant this money to the Chamber if it were to be used for advertising the city and if the expenditures were accounted for quarterly.

However, Chamber President John Ebbinghouse informed the council that the

Chamber could not operate satisfactorily with such strings attached.

"It's quite likely that we'd get into a hassle every three months," he said. Then putting the whole issue on a basis of integrity he said, "If we can't be trusted then we shouldn't be given any money at all."

Councilman Bob Jahn then tried to set Ebbinghouse straight in the matter.

"The only way the city can pay the Chamber of Commerce

is as an advertising agency," he said. "No firm draws a contract with the idea of distrust in mind—we don't distrust the 20 members of the board of directors. If (these conditions) are taken as an insult, then many people in the city working without compensation—such as all the commissions—might also be considered in that class. There's some pettiness somewhere if it's taken as an insult." (Turn to Page 8)



SURF FISHING

R. Deurloo of 24424 Park st., WALTERIA, is this week's finalist in the Torrance Press photo contest. The serene setting above was taken with a 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 Graflex, 1/100 sec., F8, A filter, royal pan. The photo was entered in the semi-professional division. For the amateur finalist, turn to page 9.



DANDY GRAND OPENING
The newest Jim Dandy supermarket opens today at Western ave. and Lomita blvd. in Lomita.—Press Photo.

'Miss Torrance' Beauty Pageant Friday

Turn to Page 2 for Pictures and Story